

REMARKS

Receipt of the Official Action mailed on November 19, 2004 is acknowledged with appreciation. The present amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner, and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 5 – 8, 10 – 25, 29 – 54, 61, 66, 67, and 69 - 71 are pending in the application, of which claims 5, 29, and 61 are currently amended and claim 71 is a new claim. Claims 1 – 4, 9, 26 – 28, 55 – 60 and 62 – 65 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The allowance of claims 49 – 54 is acknowledged with appreciation and the allowability of claims 9, 13 – 25, 36 – 48 and 68, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is also acknowledged with appreciation.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of all claims under consideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections and Objections

Claims 1 - 4 and 26 – 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Epworth (GB2,245,790).

Claims 61 – 67, 69 and 70 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Katzir et al. (US6,275,514).

Claims 5 – 8, 10 – 12, and 29 – 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epworth in view of Vadasz et al. (US 4,201,455).

Claims 9, 13 – 25, 36 – 48 and 68 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 5 has been rewritten to include the allowable recitation of claim 9 which depends directly from claim 5. In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claim 5, as now rewritten, is thus allowable. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw rejection of claim 5 and of claims 6 – 8 and 10 – 25 which depend directly and ultimately therefrom.

Claim 29 claims a method corresponding to the apparatus of claim 5. Claim 29 has been rewritten to include the allowable recitation of claim 9, cast method format. In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claim 29, as presently rewritten is thus allowable. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw rejection of claim 29 and of claims 30 – 48 which depend directly and ultimately therefrom.

Claim 61 has been rewritten to include the allowable recitation of claims 68, which depends directly from claim 61, and intervening claims 62 – 65. In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claim 61, as now rewritten is thus allowable. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to withdraw rejection of claim 61 and of claims 66, 67, 69 and 70 which depend directly and ultimately therefrom.

Claim 71 corresponds to original claim 29, and has been rewritten to include the allowable recitation of original claim 36. In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that claim 71 is thus allowable.

Conclusion and Request for Interview

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in order. Although the Applicants do not agree with the rejection, the foregoing amendments have been made in an effort to expedite examination and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposition Account.

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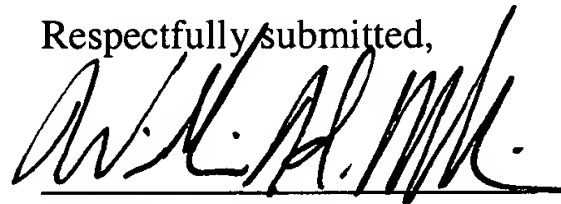
WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 11, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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